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FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7727

INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

RUCJACC/USCINCENT MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY

RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC//JSI-5A/DB-8/DC-4A/AT-6// PRIORITY

RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GER PRIORITY

BT

SECRET SANAA 0089

NOFORN

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, LY, YE

SUBJECT: QADDAFI-SALIH PHONE CALL

1. (U) ACCORDING TO THE JANUARY 6 EDITION OF AL-THAWRA, LIBYAN LEADER MOAMER QADDAFI TELEPHONED PRESIDENT SALIH ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 5. THE NEWS REPORT SAID THAT SALIH "CONFIRMED" YAR SUPPORT FOR LIBYA REGARDING THE THREAT IT FACES, FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF "STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH ANY ARAB COUNTRY WHOSE SECURITY AND STABILITY ARE SUBJECTED TO AGGRESSION, IN FULFILLMENT OF OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE JOINT ARAB DEFENSE AGREEMENT."

2. (SECRET/NOFORN) COMMENT. THE JANUARY 5 CONVERSATION

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WITH SALIH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN THE LIBYAN LEADER'S THIRD CALL TO SANAA IN THE PAST WEEK. SIRO REPORTS THAT IN AN EARLIER CALL (SEE SIRO-SANAA NVS-3001) QADDAFI GOT LITTLE SATISFACTION FROM SALIH WHO WAS ANYTHING BUT AGREEABLE TO QADDAFI'S REQUESTS FOR EASING OF RESTRICTIONS ON LIBYAN DIPLOMATS IN SANAA. THE POLITICAL SECTION'S LOCAL EMPLOYEE (PROTECT) REPORTS A CONVERSATION WITH A SUPPOSEDLY WELL-INFORMED YEMENI OFFICIAL WHO SAID THAT SALIH HAS BEEN SEEKING FINANCIAL AID FROM QADDAFI TO REPLACE ASSISTANCE WHICH SAUDI ARABIA HAS PROMISED BUT NOT PROVIDED OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS. (THIS MAY ALSO HELP EXPLAIN THE VISIT OF ONE OF SALIH'S SENIOR STAFF ADVISERS, AHMED AL-ASBAHI, TO LIBYA LAST MONTH.) THE OFFICIAL NOTED THAT THE ARTICLE IN THE PAPER JANUARY 6 WAS FOR THE CONSUMPTION OF THE LIBYAN EMBASSY. ROUGH

END OF MESSAGE

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